

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims:

1. (Original) A method of crosslinking a polysaccharide comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a metal coordinating group having a reactive site,
 - (b) derivatizing a polysaccharide with the metal coordinating group to produce a derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands, and
 - (c) crosslinking the derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands with a metal ion to form a metal ligand coordination complex.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of guar, xanthan, locust bean gum, hydroxy ethyl and hydroxy propyl derivatives of gums, ~~or~~ hydroxyethylcellulose, and combinations thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent comprising a compound chosen from the group consisting of copper, nickel, iron, ruthenium, palladium, platinum, iridium, ~~and~~ cobalt, and combinations thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidentate ligands ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine, acetylacetonate ions, dithiocarbamate, 2,2'-bipyridine, 1,10-phenanthroline, ~~or~~ 8-hydroxyquinolino, and combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the crosslinking agent is present in an amount up to about 500 moles of crosslinking agent per mole of polysaccharide.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein step (c) occurs within a wellbore in a subterranean formation.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide comprises guar and the crosslinking agent is a derivative of iron or ruthenium.
8. - 31. (Cancelled)
32. (Original) A metal ion crosslinked polysaccharide produced by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a metal coordinating group having a reactive site on the metal coordinating group,

(b) derivatizing a polysaccharide with the metal coordinating group to produce a derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands, and

(c) crosslinking the derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands to form a metal ion crosslinked polysaccharide.

33. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidentate ligands comprise 2,2'-bipyridine.

34. (New) The metal ion crosslinked polysaccharide of claim 32 wherein the bidentate ligands comprise 2,2'-bipyridine.